

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee
Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 20th, 2011 at 4 PM
Senior Center: Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Kathy Woods Masalski, Helen MacMellon, Florence Boynton, Aaron Kropf, Eli Cohen, Denise Boyd

Members Absent: Stephanie Joyce, Amy Springer, Jule Dupre

Others: Yuko Takahashi, Nancy Pagano (Staff Liaison), Diana Stein (Select Board Liaison)

At 4 PM, the Meeting was called to order by Kathy Woods Masalski, Interim Chair

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of June 22nd were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reports we have \$1,681.94 in our Kanegasaki Sister City Gift Account. A total of \$600.12 was raised by the Bertucci's fundraiser.

Welcome and Introductions:

Members of the KSCC welcomed our new Select Board Liaison, Diana Stein, to her first meeting with us. (She assumed this responsibility from Aaron Hayden in a committee swap.) Diana explained that she has taught many students from Japan and has been to Japan twice when she participated in scientific meetings there.

KSCC members were also happy to welcome new member Eli Cohen. Eli has recently returned to Springfield from Japan where he lived for three and a half years. In 2005 he lived in Osaka and taught English as a Foreign Language at various companies across the Kansai region. He stayed in Osaka for a little over a year and returned to Western MA in November 2006. Eli returned to Japan in the Spring of 2009 to teach for a semester at Obirin Daigaku in Tokyo. After that he enrolled in the JET Program and was sent to the tiny island of Tanegashima (south of Kagoshima). He spent a year in Minamitane, a town of 6,000 people on an island with less than 30,000 people where he taught English at the elementary school and junior high school and coached the boys basketball team. After the contract finished, Eli returned to Tokyo and taught for a semester at Kanagawa University in Yokohama. He left Tokyo this June and now lives in Springfield.

Kathy Woods Masalski will write Mayor Takahashi telling him of the reorganization of the committee.

KSCC To Help Kanegasaki Celebrate Ten Year Anniversary of Its Emily Dickinson Archive Center

An email message from Miyuki Sato, Kanegasaki's staff liaison to the KSCC, recently reported that there are two collections of Dickinson materials in their Town Library: one is in the Amherst Corner (contributed by individuals or groups from Amherst, especially the Jones Library), the other in an archive section of the library (contributed by members of the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan) that is closed to the public. It is the latter that is being celebrated in this anniversary year. This was news to members of the KSCC.

In honor of the celebration, Aaron Kropf has taped messages from Select Board Chair (Stephanie O'Keeffe), the KSCC Interim Chair (Kathy Woods Masalski), The Jones Library Interim Director (Tevis Kimball), and the Emily Dickinson Executive Director (Jane Wald). Kathy met in advance with all the individuals involved in taping, arranged for gifts to be decided, and collected from each written messages to be forwarded to the town to be included in a "memory book" of the event.

Kanegasaki asked if photos of Amherst could be sent for a display being set up as part of the celebration and Nancy has taken care of this.

The KSCC has VOTED (Denise Boyd moved and Aaron Kropf seconded) to give an additional gift (up to \$50) from the committee in honor of this occasion. Aaron and Denise will co-chair the "gift" committee. They have agreed to purchase and mail the KSCC's gift, which will be sent to Kanegasaki along with gifts from the Emily Dickinson Museum and The Jones Library.

Summary of Bertucci's Fundraiser:

Kathy Woods Masalski, who headed up the fundraising effort at Bertucci's on July 19, reported that approximately 200 people "dined in or out" at the Italian restaurant between 5:30 and 9:00 PM, which resulted in the KSCC's taking in \$600.12 for Japan Disaster Relief (15% of the "take" for that time period). She will report this to the Mayor in her letter. Aaron Kropf will contribute wording to the part of Masalski's letter that will detail this contribution to the Town. The money will be wired by Florence Boynton, Treasurer. Kathy credited Scott Merzbach and Phyllis Lehrer for including information about the event in their reporting, which gave the KSCC appreciated visibility.

Ms. Yoriko Kimura's Visit to Amherst

Aaron Kropf, who hosted Yoriko Kimura from Sendai during July, reported that his guest, a member of the Operating Committee of Kanegasaki Library's Emily Dickinson Archive Center and member of the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan, spent most of her 40 days in Amherst researching the poet for her dissertation. Although Kimura's visit was not an "official" one in the sister-city relationship, several members of the Committee helped her find her way around the area and entertained her during her free time.

Membership: Membership in the KSCC is in a state of flux with terms ending and inactive members. An effort to develop a mailing list of friends and past members of the KSCC is being constructed to try to enlist new members and encourage participation when we have activities. Select Board Liaison Aaron Hayden volunteered to create a list previously, but he has reported that his disc crashed. New Select Board Liaison Diana Stein will ask him for what he can pass on to her to bring to the committee. Kathy has asked all members bring in names and contact information to our next meeting.

KSCC Annual Report: Kathy wrote the report (that is a chronology of important happenings recorded in the minutes of the meetings for FY2011), which is attached.

Other:

--Since the item to look at our mission statement was on the agenda during last year, Kathy suggested that we put it on again for next month's meeting. During her meeting with Select Board Member Stephanie O'Keeffe, Stephanie offered to come to a meeting, and Kathy will invite her.

--An election of officers is also planned.

--An article (and photograph) about the KSCC March Potluck Dinner for Japan Disaster Relief appeared in an English language newsletter (*Red Brick Bulletin*) published and distributed electronically by the Hokkaido government.

--Kathy passed on information from the Five College Center for East Asian Studies about two film presentations in November related to the disasters in Iwate prefecture. Details will be forthcoming. She asked that, once the dates and times are announced, a member of the KSCC volunteer to attend one of the presentations in order to report back to the committee.

Next Meeting October 18th, 2011, at 4 PM, Bangs Community Center's Alice Dowd Lounge

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting ended at 5:15 for lack of a quorum. Discussion continued among members and others present at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Staff Liaison/Secretary with contributions from Kathy Woods Masalski